Services under the purview of the Consumer Protection Act;

(b) what are the specific recommendations of the National Consumer Protection Council in this regard; and

(c) what is Government's reaction to the recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Earlier, Government had constituted a high power working group to suggest suitable amendments to make the Consumer Protection Act more effective. The group has recommended inclusion of the following items within the purview of the Act:—

(i) the goods or services which are likely to cause loss or injury to consumer;

(ii) services relating to housing construction;

(iii) Hospital services and services relating to water supply, health care etc., provided by local bodies etc.;

(iv) goods purchased for self-employment;

(v) restrictive trade practices like tie-up sales etc.

(b) Central Consumer Protection Council in its meeting held on 31-3-92 accepted the suggestion to include the above items within the purview of the Act. However, the State Food Ministers opposed the inclusion of health services and other services relating to water supply, sanitation, etc., provided by local bodies within the ambit of the Act.

(c) The recommendations of the Council are under consideration of the Government.

Fires in the Shalimar Tar Plant

401. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shalimar Tar Plan in Lodna area caught fire through the colliery on 17th March, endangering the whole area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the land and the factory belongs to BCCL but stands deserted both by the Private owner and BCCL creating this fire hazard and making the area unsafe;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(e) the remedial steps taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Production of coal

402. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of coal during the Seventh Five Year Plan vis-a-vis the target fixed;

(b) what is the estimated production and consumption of coal in the country during the year 1992-93;

(c) the measures taken by Government to achieve the target by increasing production of coal;

(d) the estimated production thereof during the Eighth Plan; and

(e) the amount proposed to be spent threon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The total coal production of the country during the Seventh Five Year Plan period vis-a-vis the targets